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Handloom co-operative societies in the South Arcot district.

* 614 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of handloom co-operative societies in the South Arcot district;

(*b*) the number of co-operative societies started in the district as a result of the Ryan Scheme.

(*c*)the number of labourers benefited by the scheme; and

(*d*) the amount spent in the district towards the scheme?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) 38.

" (*b*) No new societies were formed but 18 existing societies worked the relief scheme.

" (*c*) 1,184 weavers were benefited.

" (*d*) An interest-free loan of Rs. 8,600 was granted by the Government towards share capital of weavers admitted and the South Arcot District Co-operative Central Bank granted a loan of Rs. 1,05,421 to the 18 societies for working capital. The loan has been fully repaid to the Bank. A sum of Rs. 8,149-4-0 was disbursed under the relief scheme among 17 weavers' societies to make good their business losses."

Construction of a sand bank across the river Vellar near Nagarathnapallam, Pudukkottai division.

* 615 *Q.*—SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether an anicut across Vellar near Nagarathnapallam in Palayoor vattam, Alangudi taluk, Pudukkottai division, Tiruchirappalli district, is proposed to be constructed to impound river water for irrigation of lands in Nappalakudi village of Arantangi taluk, Tanjore district;

(*b*) if so, the cost and exact place of the construction of the anicut;

(*c*) whether petitions raising objections againnst the location of the anicut were received from the villagers of Nagarathnapallam, etc.;

(*d*) when and how the objection petitions were disposed of; and

(*e*) the stage of construction of the anicut?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) & (*b*) It is not proposed to construct an anicut, but only a sand bank of temporary nature is proposed to be formed across the river Vellar in S. No. 23 of Isugapatti village, Alangudi taluk. This bank will touch the S. Nos. 19 and 36 of the above village on the left and right sides respectively of the river Vellar. The work is estimated to cost Rs. 9,576.

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" (c) Yes.

" (d) The petitions were disposed of in August 1952, in cousultation with the Collector of Tiruchirappalli. It was proposed to protect the village of Nagaratnampallam and the ayacut lands under the Odaikulam from submersion by the formation of a flood bank on the left side of the Vellar and by keeping the top of the sand bank at such a height as not to cause any submersion of ayacut respectively.

" (e) A portion of the new supply channel has been excavated and silt clearance to the existing supply channel to the Nor-Pavalakudi tank below its head sluice has been done. The sand bank and the flood bank are yet to be formed."

11-10 a.m. Sri V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" May I know how many acres will be irrigated by the construction of this anicut? "

The Hon. Raja Sri SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" It is not an anicut, Sir. I said it is only a sand-bank to prevent submersion."

Opening of Harijan welfare schools in the South Arcot district.

* 616 Q.—Sri M. KATTIMUTHU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any proposal with the Government for opening new Harijan welfare schools in South Arcot district in 1954–55; and

(b) if so, the places where these schools will be opened?

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (a) No.

" (b) Does not arise."

Neyveli Lignite Project.

* 617 Q.—Sri A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) the total cost of the machinery installed at Neyveli Lignite Project in the South Arcot district;

(b) the cost of machinery yet to be installed; and

(c) the reasons for not allowing man-power for excavating lignite ores?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) The total cost of machinery at the project is about Rs. 61·39 lakhs.

" (b) This will depend on the shape of final project decided upon.

" (c) Manual labour is employed consistent with safety and economy. The machines are used to expedite excavation only to the extent it is beyond the capacity of manual labour. Actually over 400 men are employed on this work."